

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07 COME-00
AID-05 SSM-05 /085 W
-----161725Z 021268 /42

P 161424Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6174
INFO AMEMASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 3450

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IS
SUBJECT: VIEWS OF DMC LEADER MEIR AMIT

1. POLITICAL OFFICER ATTENDED INTERVIEW DMC LEADER
MEIR AMIT GAVE MAY 13 TO SMALL GROUP OF FOREIGN
JOURNALISTS. AMIT SQUEEZED IN SESSION BETWEEN CAMPAIGN
APPEARANCES. MUCH OF INTERVIEW COVERED FAMILIAR
GROUND IN BACKGROUNDING DMC'S ORIGIN AND PROGRAM;
HOWEVER, FOLLOWING WAS OF INTEREST.

2. IN ILLUSTRATING THE ATTITUDE WHICH THE DMC IS
ATTEMPTING TO CHANGE, AMIT REFERRED TO RABIN'S TV
APPEARANCE LAST MONTH ANNOUNCING HIS RESIGNATION.
RABIN HAD SAID THAT HE WAS STEPPING DOWN "FOR THE
GOOD OF THE PARTY."HE DID NOT MENTION HIS COUNTRY.
AMIT DEPLORED THIS MIXING OF PRIORITIES.IN THE
SAME VEIN,HE CRITICIZED THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT FOR
CONTRIBUTING TO INFLATION; HE FELT INFLATION IS
THE NUMBER ONE ECONOMIC PROBLEM AND MUST BE
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SOLVED BEFORE THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PICTURE
CAN BE IMPROVED. HE ALLEGED THAT AS A CAMPAIGN
PLOY, TO MAKE PEOPLE BELIEVE "THEY NEVER HAD IT
SO GOOD,"FINANCE MINISTERRABINOWITZ IS
PUMPING A BILLION NEW POUNDS INTO THE ECONOMY
EVERY MONTH. HE ESTIMATED THAT THIS SUM
CONTRIBUTES THREE OR FOUR PERCENT MONTHLY TO

INFLATION. PART OF THE SAME PICTURE OF
IRRESPONSIBILITY IS THE GROWING NATIONAL DEBT.
AMIT SAID HE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT
PERES ACTUALLY EXPECTS (OR DESIRES) TO BE PRIME
MINISTER: HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY FACE AN IMPOSSIBLE
SITUATION. MANY OF THE IRRESPONSIBLE
BORROWINGS WILL COME DUE IN JUNE AND AMIT CANNOT
SEE HOW THEY CAN BE COVERED.

3. AMIT WOULD NOT SPECULATE ON THE SHAPE OF A
FUTURE COALITION. AS FAR AS THE DMC IS
CONCERNED, THE FINAL DECISION REGARDING
PARTICIPATION IS IN THE HANDS OF THE PARTY'S
CENTRAL COMMITTEE. HE COULD NOT DISCERN ANY
DOMINANT POLITICAL COLORATION IN THE CC. OF
THE 120 MEMBERS, ABOUT 20 WERE SHINUI PEOPLE
(THE PROTEST GROUP THAT EARLY ON JOINED YADIN'S
NEW PARTY), 19 CAME IN WITH SHMUEL TAMIR, AND
15 ARE FROM AMONG THE FORMER LABOR PARTY
MEMBERS THAT JOINED WITH AMIT. THE REST
ARE UNKNOWN QUANTITIES.

4. AMIT'S BRACKET (IN USING THIS PHRASEOLOGY HE
ALLUDED TO AN ARTILLERY TERM) FOR THE DMC'S
ELECTION RESULTS IS BETWEEN 12 AND 18 SEATS.
HE SAID HE WOULD REGARD 15 SEATS AS WELL WORTH
HIS "INVESTMENT." NOTING THAT THE GENERAL
EXPECTATION IS THAT THE WELL-OILED PARTY
MACHINES OF THE ALIGNMENT AND LIKUD CAN BE
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EXPECTED TO BE IN HIGH GEAR DURING THE LAST DAYS
OF THE CAMPAIGN, HE SAID THAT HE HIMSELF HAD
RECEIVED THAT MORNING A FORM LETTER SIGNED BY
PERES TO VOTE ALIGNMENT. AMIT'S IDEAL COALITION
WOULD INCLUDE THE DMC, THE ALIGNMENT (WITH OR
WITHOUT MAPAM) AND THE LIBERAL PARTY AFTER IT
HAD SPLIT FROM THE LIKUD.

5. COMMENT: AMIT RESIGNED FROM MANAGING
HISTADRUT'S CONGLOMERATE KOOR INDUSTRIES IN
JANUARY TO JOIN THE DMC. HE IS CREDITED WITH
ACCOMPLISHING THE TURN-AROUND OF THE FIRM FROM
AN AILING DEFICIT-RIDDEN EMBARRASSMENT TO
HISTADRUT TO A PROFITABLE, EXPANDING ENTERPRISE
ACCOUNTING FOR 25 PERCENT OF ISRAEL'S INDUSTRIAL
OUTPUT. NUMBER THREE ON THE DMC LIST, SHOULD THE
DMC BE IN THE NEXT GOVERNMENT AMIT WOULD ALMOST
CERTAINLY RECEIVE A PORTFOLIO--PROBABLY COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY. HIS COMMENTS ABOUT INFLATION AND

THE NATIONAL DEBT SEEM EXAGGERATED, FROM
INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LEADERS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TELAV03450
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770173-0524
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770551/aaaabsft.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIEWS OF DMC LEADER MEIR AMIT
TAGS: PINT, IS, (AMIT, MEIR)
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vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/af42be92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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